

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCYREPORT

50X1

INFORMATION REPORT

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Location

1. The Kutaiski Avto Zavod (KAZ) is located about 5 km west of Kutaisi (52-15N, 12-40E), between the road to the military and civil airfields and the single track railway to Shaltovo, a health resort 20 km from Kutaisi. The factory is on the north side of the road opposite the civil airdrome.

History

2. Construction of the factory began in 1945 and is still far from completion. Shops and machinery came chiefly from the Opel Factory in Brandenburg. Three large buildings were finished in autumn 1949. The foundry and three other buildings were under construction. If construction work is speeded up, the project may be completed in 1950.

Administration

3. The technical manager is a civilian named Kriger. Technicians from the Brandenburg Opel Factory were reportedly moved to Kutaisi, 50X1-HUM Commissions composed of 50X1-HUM civilians and military men often visited the factory to inspect construction progress and production.

Area

4. The factory area is approximately 1.5 km x 2 km. The area is not yet built up and affords adequate space for the new buildings which have been planned.

Equipment

5. The technical equipment came mainly from the machine storage depot of the former Brandenburg Opel Factory. In the buildings the machinery was fairly new. Each had individual motor units and were apparently in good condition.

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Installations

6. The most important factory installations are as follows:
- Machining shops housed in 70 x 16 m building west of the road leading into the factory. The eastern section of the building is equipped with various workbenches and produces tools for automobile production. The western section is equipped with machinery but has started only limited operations.
 - Beds for parts production, 50 x 200 m. The shop lies north of the machine shops. Carburetors are made here and sent to other sections to be finished.
 - Foundry, 50 x 100 m. Gray castings for tool production are made here.
 - Shops under construction. The shops 50 x 100 m and one 30 x 100 m will probably be used for auto production and assembly.

Production

7. Finished cars will not be produced here for some time. Shops in operation are producing tools for car production, such as pipe cutters, edge tools, and measuring instruments. About 300 workers are in these and production is high. Workers are not retained in the factory. At least there are no storage depots for tools and instruments. In the parts-production section carburetors are made. They are shipped to the CIS factory in Moscow. Grenades were formerly produced in the parts-production area. The factory is capable of converting within 24 hours to large-scale grenade production.

Power

8. The factory obtains electric current from a hydroelectric station in Katalis.

Transportation

9. A road connects the factory with the single-track railway Katalis-Svitovo.

Personnel

10. The factory employs 1,100-2,000 workers in one eight-hour shift. About 100 are senior or specialists.

Security

11. The factory is enclosed by a lattice fence with watchtowers approximately 50 m high. The factory guard consists of men and women armed with carbines. The check at the gate is strict. Large quantities of machinery still stored in the compound are guarded separately, especially in the area directly south of the machine shops.

Associations

12. A special factory has reportedly been built in the Shrine from the dismantled property of opel-Brandenburg.

Military Airfield

13. The military airfield lies north of the road from Katalis to the auto factory and approximately 1 km northeast of the town. The field is approximately 2 min x 700 m. The concrete runway is not more than 700 m long. About 100 fighter planes of an older type and other aircraft were parked on the field. They were all single-motor planes.

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Civil Airdrome

14. The civil airdrome is south of the road from Kutaisi to the auto factory. The entrance is about 5 km from the city and at the west end of the airfield. The field is 1 x 3 km, and the concrete runway is about 1 km long. There is a small repair hangar which can accommodate three or four planes.

Attachment: Layout sketch of KAZ Factory.

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Attachment

KUTAISI AUTO FACTORY, MILITARY AIRFIELD AND CIVIL AIRDROMELEGEND**A. KUTAISI AUTO FACTORY**

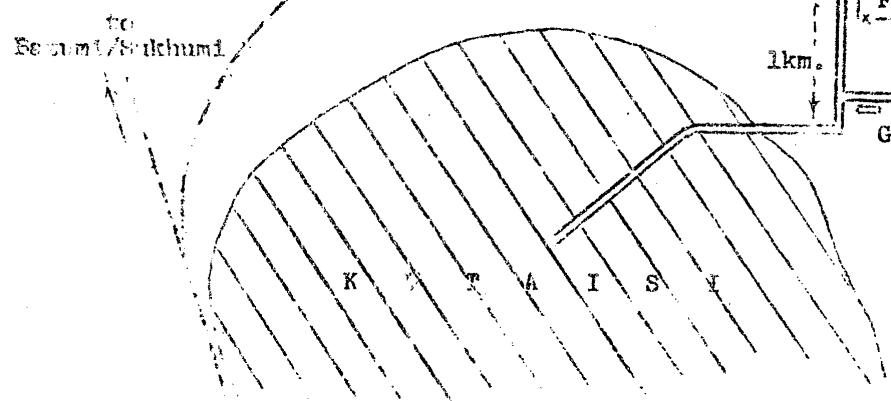
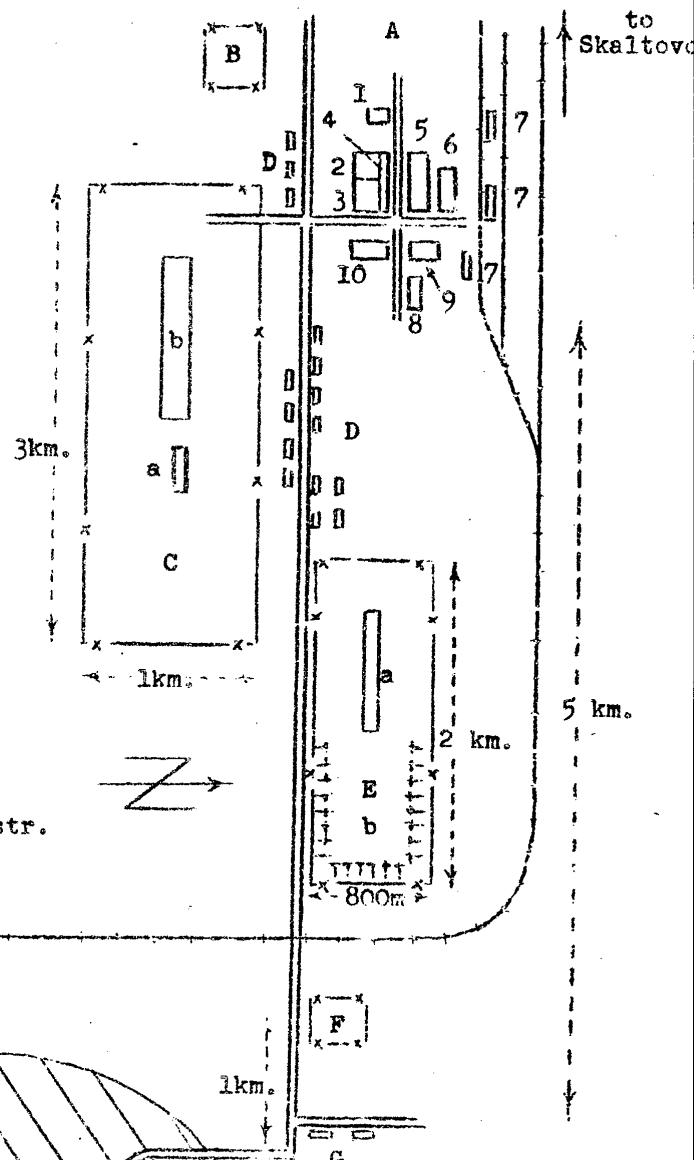
- (a) Garage
- (b) Machine Shop
- (c) Machine Shop
- (d) Administration Building
- (e) Parts-Production Section
- (f) Shop under construction
- (g) Small Storage Depots
- (h) Foundry
- (i) Shop under construction
- (j) Shop under construction

B. Convict Labor Camp**C. KUTAISI CIVIL AIRDROME**

- (a) Repair Shop
- (b) Runway

D. Settlement**E. MILITARY AIRFIELD**

- (a) Runway
- (b) Airplane Parking Area

F. PW Camp No 7518/1**G. Large Buildings under constr.
(steel construction)**

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